

Message Text

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60

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 INT-08

TRSE-00 FRB-02 OPIC-12 SS-20 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

STR-08 CIEP-02 OMB-01 CEA-02 DRC-01 /177 W

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R 211330Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1490

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, NS

SUBJECT: BELGRADE BAUXITE CONFERENCE

REF: PARAMARIBO 405

1. SUMMARY. AT A MEETING OF BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN BELGRADE IN LATE OCTOBER, JOINT BAUXITE POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE COMPANIES WAS DISCUSSED. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT A PERMANENT OPEC-TYPE BODY WILL BE CREATED AT THE NEXT MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING DUE TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY 1974. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE SURINAM DELEGATION, H. ABRAHAMS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIVE PRINCIPAL BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES MET IN BELGRADE FROM OCT. 29-NOV. 2. WE HEARD EARLIER FROM ANOTHER SOURCE THAT MEETING WAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR GENEVA BUT GUINEANS OBJECTED

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TO "CAPITALIST" LOCATION AND VENUE WAS SHIFTED TO A MORE

SOCIALIST SITE.

3. PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS COMMON BAUXITE POLICY. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE NATIONALIZATION, PRODUCTION CONTROL AND BUFFER STOCKS, INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRIES IN ANCILLARY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION OF ORE AND METAL, JOINT BUYING OF MATERIALS USED IN PROCESSING, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION DEALING WITH TECHNICAL AND TAX MATTERS, AND, IN GENERAL, HOW TO "GET MORE" BENEFITS FOR PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

4. ABRAHAMS DESCRIBED THE GUYANA DELEGATION'S ATTITUDE AS THE HARDEST OF ALL, CONSTANTLY PUSHING OUTRIGHT NATIONALIZATION AS ONLY WAY OF DEALING WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES. JAMAICA AND GUINEA WERE CHARACTERIZED AS MORE PRAGMATIC, INTERESTED IN GETTING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT SHORT OF NATIONALIZATION. DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING, THE GUINEAN MINISTER OF MINES, ISMAEL TOURE, ATTENDED CONFERENCE ALTHOUGH IT WAS TO BE AT TECHNICAL LEVEL, TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR LATER MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING. THE GUINEANS WERE DESCRIBED AS INTERESTED IN PRESERVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH U.S. COMPANIES FOR EASE OF ACCESS TO INVESTMENT CAPITAL, AND CONCENTRATING ON JOINT PARTICIPATION, HANDLING TRANSPORTATION OF MATERIALS AND CONSOLIDATED PURCHASES. THE JAMAICANS REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED THE SAME LINE, BUT WERE SAID TO BE VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOREIGN BAUXITE COMPANIES. ABRAHAMS SAID THE AUSTRALIANS DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE DEVELOPED AN APPROACH TO THE BAUXITE QUESTION, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT YET RESOLVED THE FEDERAL VS. STATE CONFLICT OVER CONTROL OF NATURAL RESOURCES. AS FOR SURINAM, ABRAHAMS SAID HIS GROUP TOOK A CAUTIOUS POSITION, ADVANCING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF JOINT VENTURES BUT NOT PURSUING ANY LINE WHICH MIGHT COMMIT OR HAVE TO BE DISAVOWED BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL EMERGE FROM THE NOVEMBER 19 ELECTIONS.

5. ABRAHAMS CONSIDERED ALMOST A CERTAINTY THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT BAUXITE BODY, SIMILAR TO OPEC, AT THE NEXT MEETING, WHICH IS TO BE AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AND WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR CONAKRY DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEBRUARY 1974.

6. COMMENT. THE GOS PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE AND THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS, NORMALLY FORTHCOMING, HAVE BEEN RATHER RETICENT ABOUT THE BELGRADE MEETING. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE REPORT WHICH THE DELEGATION HAS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT.
JOHNSTON

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Message Attributes

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